

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 OPIC-03 IO-10 SS-15 ERDA-05

OMB-01 H-02 NIC-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

NSC-05 /090 W

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R 311544Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2307

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1804

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, NATO

SUBJ: PORTUGAL AND THE NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP

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1. LISBON MORNING NEWSPAPERS MARCH 31 GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO FRANCE PRESSE REPORT THAT PORTUGAL WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM FORTHCOMING JUNE MEETING OF NATO'S NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP. REPORT NOTES THAT ALTHOUGH PORTUGAL IS OFFICIALLY A MEMBER, IT HAS NOT PARTICIPATED IN NPG "FOR NEARLY A YEAR." REPORT ALSO FEATURES STATEMENT MADE BY THEN-MINISTER OF DEFENSE VICTOR ALVES IN NOVEMBER THAT PORTUGAL "NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTED" IN NPG.

2. COMMENT: PRESS TREATMENT OF PORTUGUESE-NATO RELATIONS EMPHASIZED LACK OF CONFIDENCE BY NATO IN PORTUGAL, AS OPPOSED TO OFFICIAL GOP REAFFIRMATIONS OF CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO NATO. PRESS REPORTS ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT PORTUGUESE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE BEING VIEWED BY NATO MEMBERS AS RUNNING COUNTER TO ORGANIZATION'S VERY NATURE. WHILE PORTUGAL'S NATO TIE IS ASSAILED BY FAR LEFT, PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS (PCP) CONTINUE FOR PRESENT TO ADVOCATE NO CHANGES IN PORTUGAL'S INTERNATIONAL ALIGNMENT. INTEREST OF PCP (AND PCP-DOMINATED MEDIA) APPEARS TO BE THAT OF PROPAGATING IMAGE OF A FEAR-RIDDEN NATO REACTING TO PORTUGUESE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, GRADUALLY PUSHING A DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE PORTUGAL TO ORGANIZATION'S OUTER MARGINS.

3. THE NATO "IMAGE" BEING PROJECTED BY THE PRESS ESSENTIALLY IS THAT OF AN ANTI-SOVIET, COLD WAR ALLIANCE. WHAT IS NOT GETTING ACROSS IS THE IMAGE OF AN ATLANTIC COMMUNITY OF NATIONS SHARING COMMON DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND A COMMON CONCERN AT EROSION OF THOSE VALUES IN PORTUGAL.
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